

September 19, 2010

The Honorable Jim Prentice, PC MP  
Minister of the Environment  
Les Terraces de la Chaudières  
10 Wellington Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0H3  
email: [minister@ec.gc.ca](mailto:minister@ec.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Prentice,

Reference: Raven Underground Coal Project - CEAR Reference Number 10-03-55529

I write to you on behalf of World Community, a 20 year old Comox Valley based organization with a vision of raising awareness of global development issues through local education and action. As residents of the area directly impacted by the proposed Raven Underground Coal project we join our voice with our local community in vehemently opposing this project for its impact globally as well as locally. In our opinion the production of metallurgical coal in Canada for shipment to China and use in manufacturing automobiles is a direct contradiction of Canada's commitment to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. This proposed project thus represents not only an assault locally on the environment and health of all species including humans in this region, this assault is on a global level.

We have read the concerns expressed in the many submissions posted on the CEAA website, and share those concerns regarding the impact of this proposed project on our local environment. We value the quality of the land, fresh and salt waters and clean air we enjoy in the Comox Valley which gives this area life for human, animal, bird and fish species of great variety and abundance. Coal mining whether conducted with newly improved technologies or 18<sup>th</sup> Century methods is well known to be an environmentally unfriendly activity. The proposed 200 hectare footprint Raven Underground Coal project holds the potential for seriously damaging a number of water and wildlife resources that we rely on in this area to provide us food and generate income. The extent of the proposed development would irrevocably change existing plant, bird and animal habitat in the area posing further threats to survival of a diversity of species in our region.

Here in the Comox Valley we live in a place noted for its abundant food sources, its respect of the natural world its desire for community participation and above all its reputation as a great place to live on Vancouver Island. This Coal Mine project, appears to us as a threat to all of that. It is a project designed by people whose day to day living environment will not suffer from its negative impacts. It is proceeding through an assessment process conducted by other people who do not live here and whose homes and living environments will not be directly impacted by its negative impacts. The benefits of the project will primarily be realized by yet another group of people who have no real caring stake in the future health of our region.

So we wonder, how is it that we whose lives are committed to this area are in the position of having to ask that this project be stopped, rather than having our thoughts and opinions sought ahead of time by those private and public sector individuals involved.

We submit this letter with a deep desire for all the voices in our Valley to be heard, those of our organization and the many others who are writing to you and those who cannot for one reason or another make the written submission.

Sincerely

Medwyn McConachy

Chair, World Community Development Education Society